

CONFIDENTIALOLL/LD
INCOMING

/ /

IMMEDIATE

FRP: .2, .5, . .

STATE

25X1

84 6037272

SCO

PAGE 001

NC 6037272

TOR: 242349Z DEC 84

25X1

OO RUEAIIB
 ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
 OO RUEHC RUEHSA RUEHTN
 DE RUEHC #7455 3592349
 ZNY CCCCC ZZH
 O 242247Z DEC 84
 FM SECSTATE WASHDC
 TO RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE 2835
 RUEHTN/AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE 1582
 BT
 C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 377455

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
 TAGS: PREL, SF
 SUBJECT: DENIAL OF VISA TO TRAVELLING COMPANION
 OF ~~CONGRESSMAN FOWLER~~

1C - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AMBASSADOR FOURIE INFORMED DEPARTMENT DECEMBER 24 THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL VAN DALSEN HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE MEETING OF GROUP OF SAG OFFICIALS WHOSE APPROVAL WOULD BE REQUIRED TO ISSUE VISA TO ATLANTA CONSTITUTION DEPUTY EDITOR SHIPP. CONGRESSMAN FOWLER HAS BEEN INFORMED, HAS CANCELED HIS TRIP AND INTENDS ON DECEMBER 26 TO ISSUE A STRONG STATEMENT DENOUNCING SAG'S FAILURE TO ISSUE VISA .

3. WE HAVE INFORMED AMBASSADOR FOURIE ABOUT FOWLER'S INTENTIONS. WE HAVE ALSO POINTED OUT TO FOWLER THAT AN OVERLY STRONG CONDEMNATION MIGHT AFFECT SHIPP'S FUTURE CHANCES OF RECEIVING A VISA, BUT ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT THIS WILL APPRECIABLY CHANGE TENOR OF HIS STATEMENT

4 DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO USE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE ON THIS ISSUE: THE DEPARTMENT REGRETS THE

FAILURE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE A VISA TO MR. SHIPP, A DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN JOURNALIST. THE DECISION TO DATE NOT TO ISSUE A VISA HAS NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR TWO CHERISHED AMERICAN VALUES: FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND FREEDOM OF TRAVEL. WE HAVE CONVEYED OUR VIEWS ON THIS VERY CLEARLY TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY VIEWS ON CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE BY 008 DECEMBER 26. DAM
 END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

State Dept. review completed

CONFIDENTIAL